ANNEX N

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT REGARDING THE CARIBBEAN COMMISSION

The following is an extract from a letter of 16 June 1948, received from the Acting Secretary-General of the Caribbean Commission regarding its powers, responsibilities and activities in the field of industrial and general economic development and regarding the availability from the Commission of facilities for technical surveys and studies listed in the Havana Resolution:

"2. The Caribbean Commission was established in 1946, as a consultative and advisory body, by the four metropolitan countries - France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States - which have territories in the Caribbean area.

"3. The functions of the Caribbean Commission are described in the Agreement for the establishment of the Caribbean Commission as follows:

'(1) To concern itself with economic and social matters of common interest to the Caribbean area particularly agriculture, communications, education, fisheries, health, housing, industry, labour, social welfare and trade.

'(2) To study, formulate and recommend on its own initiative, or as may be proposed by any of the Member or Territorial Governments, by the Research Council or the Conference, measures, programmes and policies with respect to social and economic problems designed to contribute to the well-being of the Caribbean area. It shall advise the Member and Territorial Governments on all such matters, and make recommendations for the carrying into effect of all action necessary or desirable in this connection.

'(3) To assist in co-ordinating local projects which have regional significance and to provide technical guidance from a wide field not otherwise available.'

"The Research Council, which is an auxiliary body to the Commission, is designed:

'/(a) To recommend
(a) To recommend to the Commission the number and functions of the technical Research Committees necessary to provide specialized scientific consideration of Caribbean research problems.

(b) In the interest of the Caribbean area to ascertain what research has been done, to survey needs, to advise concerning desirable research projects, to arrange and facilitate co-operative research, to undertake research assignments of a special nature which no other agency is able and willing to carry out, and to collect and disseminate information concerning research.

(c) To recommend to the Commission the holding of Research Council and Committee meetings and also of meetings of scientific, specialist and extension workers, and to facilitate an interchange of experience among the research workers of the Caribbean.

The activities of the Caribbean Commission, in the field of industrial and general economic development of the Caribbean, are confined, for the time being, to the undertaking of the Survey of the industrial resources and potentialities of the territories of the area, and as well as of the study of transportation and communications, as recommended by the West Indian Conference (second session).

The recommendations made by the West Indian Conference - which is also an auxiliary body to the Commission - on the foregoing matter are quoted hereunder:

13. We recommend that a Conference on Industrial Developments be convened by the Caribbean Commission not later than February 1947. We further recommend that the territorial governments be represented at that Conference with due recognition of ownership, management and labour.

14. In view of the absence at this time of comprehensive information on potentialities for industrial development in the Caribbean area, we recommend that, prior to the calling of the Conference, a survey be made along the lines suggested below:

(a) Existing Industries
   (i) Factual information regarding existing industries,
       e.g. description of products (and by-products, where applicable), production records, labour employed (skilled and unskilled), wage rates, locality of factories, materials used (raw or partly processed), sources of raw materials, and power used.

(ii) Potential
(ii) Potential expansion and potential elaboration of each industry.

(iii) Whether assisted by government and, if so, to what extent and by what means.

(b) New or Projected Industries

(i) Future plans, i.e. types of industrial development contemplated.

(ii) Materials required (raw or partly processed).

(iii) Whether raw materials are available locally in the quantities required for local demand.

(iv) Suitability of the territory concerned for the development of manufacturing enterprises, e.g. availability of fuel, power, labour and transport.

(v) Effective demand in the domestic market.

(vi) Possibility of production for export after satisfaction of potential local demand.

(vii) Description of the type or types of assistance which the government of the territory is prepared to give to new industries in general and to individual industries in particular.

17. That the terms of reference of the Conference on Industrial Development proposed in paragraph 13 above include "Trade Within the Caribbean" and "Transportation".

18. That the same Conference be invited to consider not only the industrial but also the agricultural aspects of trade within the Caribbean.

19. That, in order to provide a factual basis for the proposed Conference, the Caribbean Commission should obtain, from the territorial governments within the area or from the metropolitan governments, data on the subjects detailed below:

(a) Agricultural and forest products available, or which would be made available in the near future, for export to other Caribbean territories;

(b) Manufactured products or by-products at present available for export or which could be made available for export in the near future;

(c) Copies of customs laws, regulations and tariffs with amendments;

(d) Excise duties;

(e) Prohibited or restricted imports;

(f) Summaries
'(f) Summaries of treaties and other international agreements which affect the operation of customs laws and tariffs;
'(g) Statistics of external trade;
'(h) Annual glut and shortage periods with respect to specified agricultural products. 
'(i) Materials of local origin capable of use within the area for building or industrial purposes and their availability for export within the area; 
'(j) Local peculiarities likely to affect inter-Caribbean trade, e.g. prejudices for or against certain types of product; 
'(k) Availability of storage, including cold storage.'

"5. With a view to the implementation of the above recommendations, the Caribbean Commission at its Fourth Meeting, held in Jamaica in June 1947, approved a resolution to establish a panel of four experts, one to be appointed by each National Section, to make a general report on the state of industrial development existing and projected in the Caribbean area. 

"Similarly, the Commission appointed a Consultant to make a survey of shipping, transportation and communication facilities in the Caribbean. 

"Both these reports are now in progress. They will be subject of discussion at the Third West Indian Conference, scheduled to be held in Guadeloupe in December 1948. 

"6. As to the facilities for technical surveys or studies, which can be made available by the Commission, I wish to inform you that the Central Secretariat is now actively engaged in the completion of a general research survey for the area. In due course the information provided by the research survey will be collated according to the various fields of research and disseminated, either under the form of a Year Book of Caribbean Science, or through the medium of the Commission's Monthly Information Bulletin. 

"As far as the industrial development and transportation and communications surveys are concerned, they could not be made available before they have been submitted to the Commission for consideration and action."